

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.

## Abstract of the Disclosure

~~The invention relates to a~~ A method and an apparatus for automated application of paint film to bodywork parts (1) and to a paint film composite (5) which is suitable for automation. ~~For this purpose, a~~ A paint film composite (5) which is suitable for automation is created ~~first of all. This can be~~ and adhesively bonded onto the bodywork part (1) in an accurate position and without any bubbles or creases by means of a robot-controlled application tool that is appropriate for this purpose. ~~In order to~~ To securely hold the film composite (5), which has been picked up from a substrate, the suction grippers (30, 31) which grip the ends are angled in mirror-image form, in order in this way to prevent the ends from becoming detached from the suction grippers. The lower protective strip (9), ~~which is gripped by a moving gripping tool on a pulling off lug which projects at the end,~~ is then at least partially pulled off, thus exposing the adhesive face of the useful part (6) of the paint film. The film composite (5), ~~which is held stretched out,~~ is aligned in the correct orientation at a short distance from the bodywork part (1) ~~which is to be bonded to and is held inflexibly,~~ and the useful part (6) of the paint film is wiped onto the bodywork surface (1) ~~from the separated position by means of a moving wiper (90, 91). The outer protective strip (8), which is still held firmly by the suction grippers (30, 31) is then pulled off the applied paint film.~~

(Figure 6)